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RAMSEY
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER

OF HEALTH

UPON THE

SANITARY CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT

DURING THE YEAR 1953.

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TO THE RAMSEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Council.

I beg to submit the Annual Report on the sanitary conditions of the district for the year ending 31st December, 1953.

STAFF :

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

F. D. F. STEEDE, M B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

SANITARY INSPECTOR

J. R. TANNER, Cert.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area	15,980 acres
Estimated Population (mid 1953) ...	5,684
Number of Inhabited Houses, end of 1953	1,755
Rateable Value	£22,375
Value of Penny Rate	£93 : 4 : 7

The health of the district remains good and this is borne out by the vital statistics. The death rate remains relatively very low at the same level as last year. The birth rate shows a slight increase and is well above the average for England and Wales.

Yet again no case of either Poliomyelitis or Diphtheria has occurred. There was, however, a protracted mild epidemic of infective jaundice, which for the most part affected the school-child population in the 10-15 years age group, with the peak number of cases occurring in the summer months.

During the year much time and deliberation was given to the question of the provision of a main drainage scheme for the town. This is long overdue and the general public will know now that application for loan sanction has been made to the Ministry for the comprehensive Scheme This Scheme allowing as it does for re-sewering as necessary, will make it possible for all properties to gain access to a sewer and will therefore allow us to dispense with a night soil collection, and should also eliminate nuisances arising from flooding and surcharging of sewers. The Interim Scheme, if adopted, would make little or no tangible contribution to these ends, although by replacing the existing septic tanks, which are completely unsatisfactory and inadequate, by a modern treatment works, it would eliminate the nuisance caused by the discharge of the present highly offensive effluent.

The question of the adequacy of the water supply has and is causing anxiety, though it is hoped that it may not be very long before a scheme may be implemented by the Ramsey and St. Ives Joint Water Board to obtain water from Cambridge, which would enable the Council to lift the severe restrictions imposed by necessity on the use of water.

One cannot, however, but draw attention to the relatively high cost to the Council of both these Schemes. Costs which have risen steeply since 1946 and may well be double in the case of the main drainage scheme since the original estimate in 1946-7.

Reference was made last year to the housing circumstances of the district, and it can hardly be said that the year has shown improvement. The number of houses which it has been possible to complete (21, of which 8 were built by the Council), has made little impression on the list of housing applicants, and does not allow us to apply ourselves to the task of slum clearance, even though the relative number of properties ripe for demolition is relatively high.

In conclusion, I should like to thank Members of the Council for their kindness and consideration to me during the year, and to all officers of the Council for their never failing help and co-operation.

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births.

Birth Rate per 1000 population 20.6

Still Births.

Rate per 1000 total births 25.0

Deaths.

Death Rate per 1000 population 9.5

Deaths from Puerperal Causes per 1000 total (live and still) births } Nil

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births 25.6

Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births 27.3

Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births Nil

	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
Actual No. of Deaths	3	1	2	7	3	3
Rates all Infants per 1,000 Live Births	25.0	9.6	21.5	62.5	27.8	25.6

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) 12

Deaths from Measles (all ages) Nil

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ... Nil

Deaths from Diarrhœa (under 2 years) Nil

RATES.

	Per 1000 Population.				Per 1000 live births
	Live Births	Still Births	Crude Death Rate	Stnd'izd Death Rate	Infantile Mortality
Ramsey U.D. ...	20.6	0.50	9.5	9.2	25.6
England & Wales ...	15.5	0.35	11.4	11.4	26.8

The following table shows the classification of deaths from all causes, Registrar General's figures.

	Causes of Death.	M.	F.	Total
		29	**25**	**54**
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	–	–	–
2.	Tuberculosis, other	–	–	–
3.	Syphilitic disease	–	–	–
4.	Diphtheria		–	–
5.	Whooping cough	–	–	–
6.	Meningococcal infections	–	–	–
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	–	–	–
8.	Measles	–	–	–
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	–	–	–
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	2	2	4
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus.	1	–	1
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	–	2	2
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	–	1	1
14.	Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	3	1	4
15.	Leukæmia, aleukæmia	–	–	–
16.	Diabetes	–	–	–
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	4	3	7
18.	Coronary disease, angina	1	2	3
19.	Hypertension with heart disease ...	1	1	2
20.	Other heart disease	4	6	10
21.	Other circulatory disease	2	3	5
22.	Influenza	–	–	–
23.	Pneumonia	2	3	5
24.	Bronchitis	–	–	–
25.	Other disease of respiratory system ...	1	–	1
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	1	–	1
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhœa ...	–	–	–
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	–	–	–
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	–	–	–
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	–	–	–
31.	Congenital malformations	–	–	–
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	4	–	4
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	1	1	2
34.	All other accidents	1	–	1
35.	Suicide	1	–	1
36.	Homicide and operations of War ...	–	–	–

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

(a) **Laboratory Facilities:**

No change has taken place in the general arrangements during the past year. Bacteriological specimens from Practitioners in the district are examined at the Pathological Department of the Memorial Hospital, Peterborough, or by the Pathological Laboratory, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge.

(b) **Ambulance Facilities:**

(1) For the removal of infectious cases a motor ambulance is available at the Isolation Hospital, Huntingdon.

(2) For non-infectious and accident cases, ambulances are provided by the Huntingdon County Council from their depot at Huntingdon.

(c) **Nursing in the Home:**

Nursing in the home is carried out by three qualified nurses employed by the Huntingdon County Council. All nurses are certified midwives and attend the majority of maternity cases under the Domiciliary Midwifery Scheme.

All cases of Tuberculosis are visited by the Tuberculosis Health Visitor and a report with details of home conditions and circumstances is completed.

(d) **Clinics and Treatment Centres:**

Infant Welfare Clinics are held at the Health Clinic on the 2nd and last Wednesday every month from 2—4 p.m.

The following additional Clinics are provided :-

School Clinic (Minor Ailment)	Health Clinic 3rd Thursday of the month, 10—12 noon

Ante-Natal	The Health Clinic Every Tuesday — 2—4 p.m.
Dental Clinic	The Health Clinic 2nd Wednesday of the month 2—4 p.m.
Eyes	London Road Clinic, Old Fletton By Appointment
Tuberculosis	28, Fitzwilliam St., Peterborough Every Monday — 2—4 p.m. By Appointment.
Orthopædic	Memorial Hospital, Peterborough Every Monday, 2.15 p.m. By Appointment.
Nose, Throat and Ear Clinic	Memorial Hospital, Peterborough every Wednesday at 3 p.m. By Appointment.
Venereal Diseases	28, Fitzwilliam St., Peterborough
Women Only	Fridays — 10.30—12 noon. Wednesdays — 5.30—7 p.m
Men Only	Mondays — 5.30—7 p.m. Thursdays — 5.30—7 p.m.

Under the Ante and Post Natal Scheme, provided by the County Council, expectant mothers are examined twice during their pregnancy (or oftener if necessary) and once after confinement.

(e) **Hospitals:**

(1) Fever—The treatment of infectious diseases is carried out at the Hospital for Infectious Disease at Huntingdon

(2) The Peterborough Memorial Hospital, the County Hospital, Huntingdon and Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, continue to carry out the general hospital services in the district.

(3) Provision is made for Maternity cases at the Maternity Hospital, Paxton Park.

TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Sir,

I beg to submit my report for the year ending 31st December, 1953, my first complete year of office.

Housing :

Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year :

Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	25
Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	26
Number of houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	7
Number of houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	11

Remedy of defects without service of formal notices :

Number of dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	6

Action under Statutory Powers :

Number of dwelling houses which were rendered so fit after service of formal notice (Public Health Acts)	1
Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	1
Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	1

New Housing :

During the year the Council completed 8 permanent houses and 13 were erected by private enterprise. During the latter part of the year a contract was made for the erection of 30 non-traditional " Unity " houses on the Westfield Estate. In addition, 12 traditional houses were in course of erection in the outlying districts, and it is hoped that the number of houses completed during 1954 will show an appreciable increase.

Nuisances :

Abated as a result of informal action	32
Abated as a result of statutory action	1

Analysis	No.	No. of Inspections
Premises	12	27
Overcrowding	2	4
Smoke Pollution	—	—
Accumulation of Refuse	3	3
Foul ditches, etc.	3	3
Drains	12	20
Animals	2	4
Dampness	—	—
Disinfestation	1	2
Total ...	35	63

Inspections and Visits

Moveable Dwellings	30
Public Lavatories	2
Nuisances	63
Butchers' Shops	6
Meat and Food Inspection	20
Fish Premises	4
Rodent Control	4
Sausage Premises	9
Ice Cream Premises	4
Restaurants	7
Slaughter Houses	13
Factories and Workshops	2
Refuse Collection	14
Drainage	144
Water Supply	301
Public Health Acts	36
Housing Acts	35
Building Byelaws	71
Housing Repairs	410
Bakehouses	3
Infectious Disease	6
King George Playing Field	12
Highways	107
Civil Defence	2
Militia Camp	48
Sewage Works	11
Petroleum Acts	4
Mortuary	5
Schools	7
Miscellaneous	11
	1391

Closets :

No. of houses at the end of the year with w.c.'s ...	818
„ „ „ Pail Closets ...	912
„ „ „ Privy Vaults ...	25
No. of w.c.'s constructed during the year for new houses	21
No. of w.c.'s newly constructed for old property ...	17
No. of Privies converted to Pail Closets	—

Milk Supply :

Three milk distributors are registered and three Supplementary Licences for Tuberculin Tested, Pasteurised and Sterilised were granted during the year.

Water Supply :

Samples from the water supply are taken at regular intervals and forwarded to the Pathological Laboratory, Memorial Hospital, Peterborough. During the summer months the supply caused concern and it was extremely difficult at times to meet the demand. In order to conserve as much water as possible restrictions were imposed on the use of water for non-domestic purposes and no new applications in this connection were granted. Negotiations are in hand for a supply from the Cambridge Water Works, a much softer water, which will considerably improve the present position.

No. of samples taken from the main piped supply ...	32

Drainage and Sewerage :

The necessity for an up to date system of sewerage is more pronounced than ever, especially in view of the development which continues to take place. The erection of a new Secondary Modern School, too, accentuates the need for modern sewerage, and as a result the Council instructed their Consulting Engineers to prepare a comprehensive scheme for the town. At the time of going to press the Council had agreed to proceed with the scheme and to apply for the necessary loan sanction.

Factories Act, 1937.

Total No. of Factories (including Bakehouses) ...	23
No. of Inspections	12
No. in which nuisances abated	2

Meat and Food Inspection :

Occasional emergency slaughter takes place at the local slaughter houses, and during the year 19 pigs were inspected. There were 3 carcases of which some part or organ was condemned; none were affected with tuberculosis.

Regular slaughter of animals was still carried on at St. Ives.

The number of food premises in the area by type of business are as under:—

Butchers' Shops	10
Grocers and General Stores	26
Greengrocers	6
Bakers	7
Confectioners	19
Fish Premises	5
Cafes, Restaurants, Hotels	6
Number of Premises registered under Section 14 of Food and Drugs Act, 1938	17

Number of Inspections :

Butchers' Shops	6
Grocers and General Stores	9
Greengrocers	2
Bakers	4
Confectioners	4
Fish Premises	4
Cafes, etc.	7

The amount of condemned foodstuffs has been so small as not to require any special arrangements.

Refuse Collection :

The refuse collection scheme for the town, with labour on a contract basis, and collections at weekly intervals, continue to run smoothly. Refuse is satisfactorily disposed of at the controlled tip at Stocking Fen and very few complaints are received.

In the outside areas collections are made by contract on a fortnightly basis and all refuse brought to the one tip at Stocking Fen.

The collection of night soil is carried out by contract twice weekly in the town and weekly in the outside areas. Although this is an absolute necessity, it is a system which is full of complaints and one which can only be abolished by the provision of a proper sewerage scheme.

Moveable Dwellings.

During the year 16 licences were granted to erect station and use moveable dwellings under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936. All dwellings are inspected from time to time to ensure that the sanitary arrangements are satisfactory.

In conclusion I would like to express my appreciation to the Council for their consideration and interest during the year, the Medical Officer of Health for his enthusiasm and advice, and the Staff and workmen for their work and co-operation.

J. R. TANNER,

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

During the year the protracted epidemic of infective jaundice provided us with 22 notified cases. For the most part the disease was mild. Nevertheless, 2 cases were fairly severe and took some months before making a satisfactory recovery.

The following table gives the incidence of notifiable diseases (other than tuberculosis) in the area during 1953.

DISEASE	TOTAL	under 1 year	1 - 2	2 - 3	3 - 4	4 - 5	5 - 10	10 - 15	15 - 20	20 - 35	35 - 45	45 - 65	65 & upwards	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	12	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	3	6	-	2
Measles	2	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough ...	4	1	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
15	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL :—	6	—	2	—	—	—	—	—

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

F. D. F. STEEDE,

Medical Officer of Health